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Letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

I have the honour to transmit herewith the national report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, with a special focus on Goal 3, on gender equality and the empowerment of women, which was prepared for the annual ministerial review meeting to be held during the high-level segment of the 2010 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council (see annex).

It would be much appreciated if you could circulate the present letter and its annex as a document of the Council, under item 2 (c) of the provisional agenda.

(*Signed*) Alexandru **Cujba**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* E/2010/100.

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Annex to the letter dated 5 May 2010 from the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Moldova to the United Nations addressed to the President of the Economic and Social Council

National report of the Republic of Moldova on the implementation of the Millennium Development Goals, with special emphasis on Goal 3, for the 2010 annual ministerial review meeting of the Economic and Social Council

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

AMR —Annual ministerial review

CEDAW — Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

CEC — Central Electoral Commission

EGPRSP — Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper

EUMAP — EU-Moldova Action Plan

GDI — Gender-related human development index

GDP — Gross domestic product

HBS —Household Budget Survey

HDI — Human development index

IADGs — Internationally Agreed Development Goals

ITC — Informational technologies and communications

MCRG — Ministry of Construction and Regional Development

MDGs — Millennium Development Goals

MEc — Ministry of Economy

MEd — Ministry of Education

MEn — Ministry of Environment

MF — Ministry of Finance

MH — Ministry of Health

MTEF — Medium-Term Expenditure Framework

MTRI — Ministry of Transport and Road Infrastructure

NALFE — National Agency for Labour Force Employment

NARIT — National Agency for Regulating Informational Technologies

NBM — National Bank of Moldova

NBS — National Bureau of Statistics

NCFM — National Commission for Financial Market

NMB — National Bank of Moldova

NDS — National Development Strategy

NGES — National Gender Equality Strategy

NHRAP — National Human Rights Action Plan

NPEGE — National Programme for Ensuring Gender Equality

NSPCPM — National Scientific-Practical Centre of Preventive Medicine

NVP — National Voluntary Presentation

ODA — Official development assistance

PPP — Purchasing power parity

PRGF — Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility

PRSC — Poverty Reduction Support Credit

TB — Tuberculosis

Introduction

The aim of the present report is to assess the progress made by the Republic of Moldova towards the internationally agreed development goals (IADGs) and, in particular, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), to be presented at the fourth annual ministerial review meeting of the Economic and Social Council in 2010. The Government of the Republic of Moldova, with the support of United Nations agencies, initiated the process of preparation of the national voluntary presentation (NVP) in November 2009. To this end, a participatory draft comprehensive IADG/MDG report was prepared, involving representatives of the Government, civil society, the donor community and other stakeholders. It assessed the impact of national reforms and selected policies, as well as of projects implemented by country development partners on the MDG targets, focusing on gender equality and the empowerment of women. The main findings of the comprehensive IADG/MDG report are summarized in the NVP.

Context

For almost two decades, the Republic of Moldova has been retooling its economy to a market economy. In 1991, Moldova seceded from the Soviet Union, becoming a sovereign and independent State. The commencement of the transition period was accompanied by the breakaway of the districts in the Transnistrian region, sparking a conflict which is not solved. This event impacted the country's political, economic and social development. Transnistria accounted for a third of Moldova's total industrial production and almost its entire energy production. Due to difficulties in implementing the economic and social reforms, made worse by the added factor of political instability, Moldova was subject to economic recessions in the first 10 years of its transition, which hampered its efforts to combat poverty.

Starting in 2000, the economy of the Republic of Moldova saw remarkable growth. However, about one third of the GDP was generated from remittances in 2008 (see annex C). From 2000-2008 the economy registered cumulative growth of 67.2 per cent, although this represented only 56.9 per cent of total output in 1990. The Republic of Moldova experienced calamities such as droughts and floods, as well as export restrictions, from 2006-2008, and in 2009 it plunged into the deepest economic crisis experienced since the transition period began. The country's GDP shrank by 6.5 per cent, which undermined the authorities' efforts to contribute to the pattern of economic growth.

The economic growth that had occurred by 2009 had contributed to a reduction in poverty and an increase in the population's income, which helped to establish improved access to health care and education. This was accompanied by social consequences such as increasing migration. During the transition period, the population of the Republic of Moldova decreased by more than one fifth, and, while the unemployment rate has gradually fallen, this was caused largely by the migration of the labour force. At the same time, the economically inactive population increased in size. From the human and gender development perspectives, as reflected by the human development index (HDI) and the gender-related human development index (GDI), the Republic of Moldova is one of the least advanced countries both in Europe and among transition States. Gender-related variations are attested to in key national development indicators — women live longer than men

and show higher enrolment ratios in higher education, while men still have relatively larger economic resources.

The present report gives an overview of the current state of implementation of the IADGs, emphasizing some of the core matters which should be given consideration so that they can be achieved in a timely manner. Considerable success has been achieved in some areas, yet for most of the targets substantial funding and policy intervention are needed to ensure either achievement or that particular targets are sustainable and irreversible. The Government of the Republic of Moldova has always remained committed to the implementation of the IADGs, but it is only with support from development partners, financial and otherwise, has progress been possible so far. With respect to some of the MDGs, official development assistance (ODA) will remain crucial for their proper completion. There is openness from external partners, and most importantly, the Government is committed and willing to improve things to help ensure equal rights for all citizens.

Part A: Implementation of national development strategies and policies

I. Key features of the National Development Strategy

The Government first officially addressed poverty in 2001 by approving the interim Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (EGPRSP) — the first strategic document of the Government since the declaration of independence. This was followed in 2004 by the full Economic Growth and Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper, which covered a three-year period, to 2007. The country's major development partners, particularly the United States of America, the World Bank, the European Commission, Sweden and Germany, accounting for approximately 79 per cent of gross ODA in 2003-2004, aligned their medium-term assistance strategies to the EGPRSP.

Although the welfare of Moldovan citizens increased considerably in this period, the impact of EGPRSP on economic growth and poverty reduction was limited owing to the weak links between EGPRSP, the Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) and the annual budget. Meanwhile, from 2005-2007, the EU-Moldova Action Plan (EUMAP) was implemented, and some legislation was adapted to EU standards, although not to the full extent possible.

The lessons learned from both the EGPRSP and the EU-Moldova Action Plan led the Government to rethink its strategic planning process, and it created the National Development Strategy (NDS) for 2008-2011, which appears to be more successful. From the outset, NDS policy measures were linked to the MTEF, and policy units were established in all line ministries to support NDS implementation.

Macroeconomic stability and efficient public administration are prerequisites for meeting the NDS objectives:

(1) Strengthening democracy, the rule of law and human rights;

(2) The resolution of the Transnistrian conflict and reintegration of the country;

(3) Improving the competitiveness of the national economy;

(4) Development of human capital, employment and inclusion;

(5) Regional development.

However, the economic crisis, as well as the political instability which emerged in 2009, undermined the implementation of the NDS.

Concrete steps to design a new partnership tool with the EU were launched in January 2010, when the Republic of Moldova initiated negotiations for an EU-Moldova Association Agreement. This process will result in a medium or long-term EU integration agenda for Moldova, which will represent the policy platform for internal and external resource planning.

During the Consultative Group Meeting held on 24 March 2010 in Brussels, the Government of the Republic of Moldova presented to its major development partners a strategic paper — "Rethink Moldova" — which outlines policy priorities and investment needs over a four-year period. The overall cost of the reform was estimated at €3.5 billion (about $4.7 billion). The document is a platform for dialogue concerning potential foreign aid to the Government, and is a very useful tool encompassing policies and aid coordination.

To date, the MDGs are the only long-term national targets that are included in the Government's medium-term agenda. The Republic of Moldova first established its national targets for the years 2006, 2010 and 2015 for achieving the MDGs in the 2004 EGPRSP. The Government previously reported annually on the EGPRSP and biennially on the MDGs. In 2005, the Government approved the first national MDG report, with a detailed and well-grounded analysis of each goal. Later, in 2007, after a progress analysis and a series of consultations with civil society and the country's development partners, most of the targets were revised. The revision was carried out owing to a change in the methodology used to estimate a number of indicators, the achievement of some targets by 2007 and the downward revision of other targets that seemed overly ambitious. Although all revised MDGs and indicators are covered in national strategic documents, their implementation and, therefore, the achieved results differ from goal to goal.

The assessment of the MDGs in the Republic of Moldova from a gender perspective was carried out in 2006 by UNIFEM. Also in the same year, an assessment was made regarding the human and financial resources needed to achieve the MDGs. This provided a clear estimate of the costs associated with fulfilling the MDGs in the Republic of Moldova, which allowed the Government to focus its domestic planning and foreign resource mobilization efforts. However, since their adoption, challenges have been met in fully integrating the MDGs into national strategic documents and in devising realistic short- to medium-term action plans to ensure their implementation.

II. Progress in achieving IADGs/MDGs

Goal 1: Reduce poverty and hunger

The first decade of transition was characterized by economic recession and an increasing poverty rate. However, starting in 2000, when the poverty rate was around 70 per cent, poverty began to decrease, owing to an economic revival. In 2006 (when a new methodology for estimating poverty was introduced), 30.2 per cent of the population was living in absolute poverty and 4.5 per cent in extreme

poverty. Despite these gains, absolute poverty increased for the first time in three years in 2008 owing to the global economic downturn. It reached a level of 26.4 per cent, compared with 25.8 per cent in 2007. This was due mainly to increasing poverty indicators in rural regions and a drop in remittances. The most vulnerable social groups affected by absolute poverty are the elderly, those whose only income is from self-employment in agriculture, large families and families with multiple children, and the long-term unemployed. From a gender perspective, there is no clear difference between the poverty levels of men and women (see annex C).

Public policies implemented by the Government in recent years have had a definite social orientation, with around 68 per cent of public expenditure directed towards implementing social measures. The Government, with the support of development partners,[1] has efficiently used financial resources to implement a range of policy measures in order to support the vulnerable, including those under the poverty line.

One of the most popular policies for poverty reduction was the transition from nominal compensations for utilities that are provided to 11 categories of the population to social aid based on income assessment. Though nominal compensations accounted for about half of social assistance expenditure, the approach based on categories has led to certain failures in the system — with the wealthiest two quintiles receiving one third of the compensations. Despite the efforts of the Government, the poverty trend in 2008 showed a reduced probability of achieving the intermediate target of a reduction in both the proportion of people whose consumption was less than $4.3 a day (in purchasing power parity (PPP) terms) and the absolute poverty rate by 2010.

With regard to extreme poverty, in 2007 and 2008 the Republic of Moldova succeeded in achieving a reduction in the level of extreme poverty required by both the intermediary target for 2010 and the final one for 2015.

Goal 2: Achieve universal access to general compulsory education

The progress in achieving MDGs in education has been uneven. From 2002-2008, enrolment rates in general compulsory education dropped from 95.1 per cent to 90.9 per cent. The causes of the fall in enrolment rates, as well as the rise in the number of school dropouts, are related to: poverty, especially in rural areas; the growth in the number of children who do not have permanent parental care because their parents are working abroad; and a weak school infrastructure. Although spending on education has steadily increased, reaching 8.7 per cent of GDP (which is comparable to Western Europe) in 2008 compared with 5.7 per cent in 2000, the distribution among different levels of education remains imbalanced — general compulsory education receives almost one half of available funds, though schools are being used at an average capacity of 67 per cent. A considerable number of schools are in poor condition and lack central heating and proper sanitary

[1] The main donors assisting Moldova in its fight against poverty are the International Monetary Fund, through its credits within the Poverty Reduction and Growth Facility (PRGF) Programme, and the World Bank, through its Poverty Reduction Support Credit (PRSC) programme. Other donors, including the European Commission, the United Nations Development Programme, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, provide support to Moldova through technical assistance projects focused on the reduction of poverty and the promotion of social inclusion.

conditions. Despite all these shortcomings, the general literacy level of 98.9 per cent in 2008 and 99.6 per cent among young people aged 15-24 remains high.

The Government, with the support of country development partners, has implemented a range of policies to increase the quality of and access to general compulsory education.[2] The reorganization of schools began in early 2010, and the new financing formula, providing for greater autonomy of schools in utilizing funds, has yet to be introduced. Optimization of the school network is also relevant given the decrease in the number of students,[3] as well as the school system that was inherited. Major consideration in carrying out the reorganization of schools will be given to the needs of children with disabilities, who account for almost one tenth of children under 16.

Given that in most cases women take care of children, sometimes until school age, increasing access to preschool childcare is essential in ensuring equal access for women to the labour market. The increase in the preschool enrolment rate is, among other factors, a result of the joint efforts of the Government with the support of the United Nations Children's Fund, the World Bank and other partners, which together have developed new policies on early education, as well as teaching and methodological materials, which also encompass vulnerable groups. Consequently, the percentage of children with a preschool education is continuously increasing. In 2008, the enrolment rate for children aged 3-6 years was 74.4 per cent, compared with 44.1 per cent in 2000, which is close to the target of 75 per cent for 2015.

From a gender perspective, enrolment in the general mandatory education system does not show any significant disparities — the enrolment ratio for boys is only marginally higher than that for girls. Thus, in primary education, where gender differences are slightly more prominent than in secondary education, the enrolment rates of girls and boys were 92.7 per cent and 94.4 per cent, respectively, in 2008. But in secondary education, the disparities are insignificant, the rate of enrolment in 2008 being 88.8 per cent for girls and 89.8 per cent for boys. There are also no serious disparities between the sexes in preschool enrolment; the enrolment ratio for girls aged 3 to 6 is 73.8 per cent, while for boys it is 74.9 per cent.

Goal 3: Promote gender equality and empower women

The representation of women in decision-making is heterogeneous in the Republic of Moldova. The State Constitution stipulates that women and men are equal before the law and public authorities. At the Parliamentary level, trends seem more favourable for women following the 2009 parliamentary elections, with the number of women represented in the Parliament constantly increasing. Currently about 30 per cent of seats are held by women, which was the target. Though there is no legislation to enforce this, the inclusion of women is due largely to the will of the political parties, indicating a commitment and responsibility on the part of the Moldovan political class in this issue. This level of representation of women,

[2] The main policy papers on education are: Moldovan Educational System Modernization Programme (2005-2008); "Education for All" National Plan (2004-2008); "SALT" Programme for Implementing Informational Technologies in Education; Strategy and Action Plan on the Reform of the Residential System (2007-2012); and National Strategy and Plan for Community Action (2007-2009).

[3] According to forecasts, the number of students will fall by more than 24 per cent in the academic year 2014/2015 compared with 2006/2007.

however, does not indicate full equality between the two sexes, therefore there is still work to do.

In 2008, women's representation in leadership positions in local public administration remained constant — 3.1 per cent of heads of local public administration (LPA) and 17.4 per cent of mayors were women. At the same time, the percentage of women elected as legislators in LPA councils rose to 16.9 per cent of district councillors and 28.7 per cent of local councillors. At the local level, the only position where women outnumber men is in the lowest levels of the hierarchy (consultant/specialist level). In the central executive, even though there is gender parity in the distribution of salaries and even in senior positions, women are concentrated at the lower end of hierarchical structures.

Despite the fact that the representation of women is increasing in LPA councils as well as in the Parliament, their place in the decision-making structures cannot be predicted, since future developments depend largely on the way each political party perceives gender-parity-related issues.

Discrepancies between the salaries of women and men have decreased in recent years, with the average female salary standing at 73.3 per cent of the average male salary in 2008. The existing gender pay gap is caused by the fact that women, in most cases, either work in less well-paid domains which are traditionally considered feminine occupations, such as education and health-care services, or occupy low-paid positions such as subordinate jobs with no managerial tasks or prerogatives.

Yet the main challenge is not ensuring the implementation of sound and clear legislation, which is a relatively easy task. This MDG's peculiarity results from the fact that its achievement involves a change in people's mentality — an evolution which takes longer.

Goal 4: Reduce child mortality

Compared with other MDGs, important achievements have been made in reducing child mortality thanks to the efforts undertaken by the Government. Success in this area is the result of regionalizing perinatal medical assistance, implementing in vitro transportation, establishing a national system of monitoring and observation of perinatal medical assistance and other measures implemented by the Government with the support of country development partners.[4] Although a new methodology for defining live birth was applied[5] in 2007, leading to growth in the infant mortality indicators for that year, the situation was significantly better than in 2000, and even compared to 1990. From 1990 to 2008, infant mortality dropped from 19 to 13.1 per 1,000 live births. A similar trend occurred in the under-five mortality rate. This shows that the targets for 2010 and 2015 for both indicators have greatly exceeded targets.

[4] The Government of Japan, Switzerland, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, UNICEF, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the World Bank have provided financial assistance to reduce child mortality.

[5] The methodology for defining live births recommended by the World Health Organization is birth which occurs after 22 completed weeks of gestation and newborn weight of 500 gms or more. Previously, the respective indicator was estimated based on the definition of a live birth as that which occurred after 28 completed weeks of gestation and with newborn weight of 1,000 gms or more.

The accomplishment and sustainability of this MDG depends greatly on the implementation of national immunization programmes and actions for increasing awareness of the positive effects of vaccinating children against measles. Though universal immunization cannot be achieved for various reasons, the proportion of children immunized against measles in Moldova is among the highest in the world[6] (94.4 per cent).

Infant and under-five deaths are higher among boys — a finding that may be explained by the fact that fewer girls were born each year than boys. In rural areas, mortality rates for both female and male infants are higher than in urban areas. This indicates that there is a more important problem that needs to be addressed — universal access to quality general health care throughout the whole territory of the country.

Goal 5: Improve maternal health

The Republic of Moldova has a low population, with around 38,000 births a year. It has seen a steady decrease in maternal mortality since the 1990s, with an average of less than 25 cases (23.6) per 100,000 newborns in recent years — an indicator which is considered low according to WHO. Furthermore, some 99.5 per cent of births are attended by skilled health personnel, which is high.

The predominant causes of maternal deaths are bleeding, followed by late gestosis, septic states, thromboembolism, hepatic cirrhosis and, rarely, there are cases of anaesthesia-related complications. Of the total number of maternal deaths, major social problems can be linked to about half, such as migratory lifestyle, disregard for medical care and lack of modern medical procedures in some district maternity wards. Further complications arise from abortions. Owing largely to the implementation of family planning measures, the number of abortions in the Republic of Moldova has fallen significantly — from 37,000 in 1997 to 14,000 in 2008. The complications resulting from abortions, however, continue to represent one of the causes of maternal deaths.[7]

The gains that the Republic of Moldova has registered in recent years (except for 2008) in the context of reducing maternal mortality are largely the result of the public policies that have been implemented, together with the support of the country's development partners. A number of policies were successfully carried out that ensured that all pregnant women, together with their newborns, regardless of their ethnic origin, social or marital status, or political or religious views, benefit from fair and free access to high-quality health services during pregnancy, childbirth and the post-partum period.[8]

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[6] Source: NationMaster, a worldwide database with data gathered from sources such as the United Nations, the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and the Central Intelligence Agency.

[7] In 1997, for every 100 newborns, 75.2 abortions were registered. By 2008, this indicator had fallen to 36.2. The share of interrupted pregnancies in the age group 15-19 years has been more or less constant over the past 10 years, representing 10 per cent of the total number of abortions.

[8] National programme on "Strengthening perinatal medical assistance in the Republic of Moldova" for the period 1998-2002, programme on "Promoting high-quality perinatal services" (2003-2006), National Strategy regarding reproductive health for the years 2005-2015, Healthcare System Development Strategy for the period 2008-2017, National Health Policy of the Republic of Moldova 2007-2021.

Goal 6: Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases

The Republic of Moldova has a low-level HIV epidemic, with signs that the general population is increasingly being affected. Compared to the cumulative incidence of HIV, the incidence among 15-to-24-year-olds fell in 2008. HIV continues to have a dramatic effect on the young and fertile population. Moreover, a trend has emerged towards the feminization of the infection: at the beginning of the epidemic, the majority of HIV-positive persons were men (84 per cent), while in recent years women have represented a growing share of the people infected. From 2003-2007, the proportion of pregnant women tested for HIV rose from 96 per cent to 99.4 per cent, and HIV prevalence among this group continued to rise: 0.1 per cent in 2005; 0.21 per cent in 2006; and 0.23 per cent in 2007.[9] In 2009, the number of new HIV cases among pregnant women decreased; it would be premature, however, to affirm that incidence rates are falling. The shift to heterosexual transmission as the main transmission mode and anecdotal evidence that migration may increase risky sexual behaviour may determine the future course of the epidemic.[10] A particularly alarming situation in this context is in the Transnistria region of the country, where prevalence is threefold (107.2 per 100,000 population on the right bank and 292.63 in Transnistria in 2009). Overall, there were 5,700 persons with HIV officially registered in 2009.

At the national level, the State policy framework guiding the HIV response in Moldova is implemented through the National Programme for the Prevention and Control of HIV/AIDS and sexually transmitted infections from 2006-2010, which determines the priority national strategies: prevention, epidemiological surveillance and treatment. The programme represents an integral, multisectoral plan, financed primarily by international donors. People with HIV/AIDS are provided with antiretroviral treatment free of charge in an effort to strengthen compliance. Moreover, 56 voluntary, free counselling and testing centres have been opened. In 2005, the National Coordination Council on tuberculosis/HIV was created.[11] However, despite this positive progress in preventing HIV/AIDS, most HIV education and prevention programmes are fragmented and focused on the improvement of knowledge about HIV and AIDS rather than on instigating behavioural change. There are limited prevention efforts dedicated to children and teenagers at risk, owing to limited data on the number of persons in these categories and to the service providers' inability to identify, refer and offer services.

The spread of tuberculosis in the Republic of Moldova reached epidemic proportions in the 1990s, amid a socio-economic crisis and inadequate financing of the health-care system, a shortage of anti-tuberculosis medicines from 1997-2000 and migration. In 2008, TB incidence in penitentiaries was 11 times higher than in the general population. A development causing concern is an increase in the number of cases of multi-drug-resistant tuberculosis, which make up about 43 per cent of the total number of cases. From a gender point of view, there is a great disparity between the number of men and women suffering from TB, with men accounting for more than two thirds of new cases of TB in 2008. The implementation of the Directly Observed Therapy Short-Course (DOTS) programme, in compliance with the National Programme for the Control and Prevention of Tuberculosis, covering

[9] Data provided by the National Centre for Sanitary Management (unpublished report, 2008).

[10] Report by Oxford Analytica, 2008.

[11] Set up by Government Decision No. 825 of 3 August 2005.

the periods 2001-2005/2006-2010, has contributed to the detection of tuberculosis and the development of statistics in the area. Access to second-line tuberculosis treatment (administered when initial or first-line treatment is ineffective) has also been extended. For the treatment of outpatient conditions of non-bacterial TB cases, a mechanism is in place to assist sufferers financially with buying medicines, food, and covering transport costs. In 2008, the rate of tuberculosis mortality for a population of 100,000 was 17.4 deaths, which was close to the 2010 target of 15.

Goal 7: Ensure environmental sustainability

In order to ensure environmental sustainability, the Government has committed to increase the proportion of land covered by forests and State-protected land areas, as well as expand the population's access to quality water, sewerage and sanitation systems. Limited progress has been achieved in recent years in relation to the expansion of forested land. In general, from 2000 to 2008, the proportion of forested land increased by only 1 percentage point, reaching 10.9 per cent of the total territory of the country.

The trend of increasing the proportion of State-protected land areas that maintain biological diversity has been relatively steady since 2000. Progress was achieved in 2006 when the coverage of such areas doubled, followed by another expansion in 2007. By 2007, the revised target of 4.65 per cent for both 2010 and 2015 had already been achieved. It is important for the Republic of Moldova to improve the quality of these areas by ensuring the allocation of funds and human resources, ensuring maintenance and putting in place a protection regime, as well as quantitive growth.

A persistent problem in the Republic of Moldova is the population's access to quality sanitary conditions. In 2008, the proportion of the population with sustainable access to improved water sources was 53 per cent, with a marked disparity between urban (92.2 per cent) and rural (26.7 per cent) access. The proportion of the population with sustainable access to sewerage was 45.7 per cent, and access of the population to sanitation services, was at about the same level — 45.9 per cent in 2008. The slow dynamics of these indicators suggest that the MDG targets may not be accomplished and that progress towards health-related MDGs could be impeded. However, water supply and sanitation constitutes a top priority for the current Government, for many reasons. Apart from the social and health aspects, there are also economic reasons, with investments in infrastructure being one way to mitigate the effects of the global economic downturn. It is believed, therefore, that these indicators will swiftly catch up in the coming years after substantial funds have already been secured and feasibility studies carried out.

Goal 8: Develop a global partnership for development

For a country in transition like the Republic of Moldova, the creation of development partnerships is crucial in attaining higher living standards for the population as well as for the country's integration into European and international structures. On the one hand, this implies constant cooperation between the countries aiming at meeting the first seven MDGs and, on the other hand, achieving progress in other important domains which are not covered by the Goals, such as foreign trade, transport and communications infrastructure, external debt sustainability, and supporting the youth.

Official development assistance per capita to the Republic of Moldova has risen constantly — from 18.2 per cent in 1995 to 33.7 per cent in 2000 and 269.2 per cent in 2007. As a consequence of the economic conjuncture, the budget deficit had to be covered from external sources, resulting in an increase in the country's foreign debt. However, the increase is not critical, and the macroeconomic situation of the country is fairly balanced. The Government has succeeded in securing more than $2.6 billion for financing development for the period 2011-2013, half in grant and the rest in concessional loans. According to a recent IMF study, the gross external debt in 2010 constitutes 78.6 per cent of GDP and is expected to rise to 85.9 per cent of GDP by 2012.

Although the Republic of Moldova could be said to be a success story in dealing with international financing organizations and aid coordination in general, the efficient use of international assistance needs improvement.

The foreign trade of the Republic of Moldova is constantly expanding. However, given the peculiarities of the country's economy — which is based largely on consumption — imports, which satisfy the bulk of domestic consumption, have risen at a greater rate than exports in recent years. Thus, the trade deficit has grown more than tenfold in the past nine years. Foreign direct investment has been rising constantly, yet at a slower pace than remittances and imports.

A particular role in creating partnerships for development is played by youth.[12] The transition period had a negative impact on younger generations. In 2008, unemployment among this group was 11.2 per cent, compared with 4 per cent for the whole population. To encourage an entrepreneurial spirit among youth living in rural areas, the Government adopted the National Programme for Youth Economic Empowerment (NPYEE) for 2008-2010, which offers training and practical support for earning initial capital to start a private business. A follow-up to this programme is also being implemented with the support of the country's development partners (UNICEF, the World Bank), aimed at helping to establish microenterprises in rural areas. Additionally, the Government adopted the 2008-2009 Action Plan to encourage Moldovan migrant workers, many of whom are young, to return to the country. A programme to coordinate reintegration assistance for voluntary returnees is being implemented with the support of the International Organization for Migration. So far, return and reintegration assistance has been provided to some 460 people.

The fact that the Republic of Moldova is a landlocked country is an important aspect, especially as the country is situated in one of the most dynamic regions in the world, where trade, transport and communication is intensifying rapidly. Transportation infrastructure, namely, roads and highways, needs serious improvement in order to make the country's economy more dynamic and stimulate trade and investment. Problems caused by the country being landlocked have been partially solved by the construction and opening of the Giurgiulesti port in 2009. However, in terms of achieving essential growth in foreign trade, the port's capacities are not sufficient.

Information and communication technologies (ICTs), which represent the sixth component of this national MDG, have seen considerable progress in the Republic

[12] Youth is defined as the population group aged 15 to 24 and accounts for 10 per cent of Moldova's total population.

of Moldova in recent years. In just eight years, ICT penetration has surged, making the ICT sector account for nearly 10 per cent of GDP. This rate is considerably higher than in other countries in the region and is much higher than the European Union average. The Republic of Moldova ranks fourth among the Commonwealth of Independent States member States in terms of the ICT development index, after the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Belarus.[13] Virtually all of the strategic programmes of national importance contain actions in the area of ICT.[14]

In addition to these issues, MDG 8 addresses the population's access to medication. In order to achieve access, in terms of both cost and location, the Republic of Moldova launched a process of systematic analysis of the pharmaceutical market with the support of WHO. Both prices and physical access to medications have increased over the last few years. Thus, around three quarters of the population has physical access to medication, and a slightly higher proportion is covered by compulsory health insurance.

Part B: Gender equality and empowerment of women

I. Gender and national strategic documents

Ensuring gender equality has been of concern to the Government of the Republic of Moldova for the past two decades of transition. The Republic of Moldova ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women in 1994, the ILO Convention concerning Discrimination in Respect of Employment and Occupation in 1995, the ILO Convention concerning Equal Remuneration for Men and Women Workers for Work of Equal Value in 1999, and the revised European Social Charter in 2001. In recent years, significant progress has been made both in terms of adapting the legal and institutional framework to the context of gender policy and in terms of incorporating the issue into national policy papers. Yet we have to admit that progress in this sense was limited with the National Development Strategy 2008-2011. Gender equality has been included on the agenda of the Government via the MDGs. The commitment was undertaken by the current Government of the Republic of Moldova, which included in its programme a separate chapter dealing with policies aimed at ensuring gender equality. At the same time, a new National Programme for Ensuring Gender Equality (NPEGE) for the years 2010-2015 and an Action Plan for its implementation were adopted.

Each of the above-mentioned papers contains provisions that outlaw gender discrimination in various fields. In 1998, the Republic of Moldova presented its initial report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women — a report that was further revised in 2000. Subsequently, the Committee formulated tailored recommendations to the Government and, in 2004, the country

[13] According to the International Telecommunication Union's *Measuring the Information Society* report, which measures the ICT development indexes of 183 countries, Moldova is ranked 68th, placing it in the category of countries with medium levels of the Opportunity Index (ICT-OI) (in 2007, Moldova ranked 83rd). Noteworthy is the ICT-OI average annual growth rate for Moldova, where it is ranked 28th (35th in 2007).

[14] National Development Strategy, Government Programme, National Strategy for Building an Information Society (e-Moldova) and its Action Plan, etc.

presented its report, which was examined by the Committee in 2006 together with an alternative report from civil society. After evaluating these reports, the Committee formulated a number of recommendations, some of which have yet to be dealt with.[15]

The principle of equality of opportunities from the gender perspective is included in Law No. 5-XVI of 9 February 2006, on Ensuring the Equality of Opportunities between Women and Men. The law mentions the necessity of including its principles in all public policies, strategies and programmes, normative acts and financial investments, thus calling for an integrated approach to the gender dimension. It also provides an institutional framework for ensuring equality between women and men by designating the competent authorities in the area of gender equality: the Parliament, the Government, the Governmental Commission for Equality between Women and Men, and the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family — as the specialized authority, other ministries, central administrative authorities and local public authorities by means of gender units. The activities of the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family, through the activities of the Department of Policies for Ensuring Gender Equality and Prevention of Violence, has contributed to the progress achieved in recent years in the area of gender equality. Based on this law and for purposes of satisfying the provisions of the Convention, the Governmental Commission for Equality between Women and Men was instituted.

II. Major challenges in the area of gender equality

The analysis of gender equality in the Republic of Moldova points to the most problematic areas, which are: the empowerment of women, particularly in the labour market, violence towards women and trafficking.[16] Areas such as the participation of women in political processes, gender-sensitive budgeting, gender mainstreaming into social protection, health and education, although at a more advanced stage, still need to be addressed in order to be properly accomplished.

Women in the labour market

The situation of women in the labour market, in spite of their higher overall level of education, is characterized, first, by a concentration of women in public-sector jobs such as health care, social assistance and education, and, secondly, by the existence of a disparity in remuneration between women and men in both the public and private sectors due to the fact that women are employed lower down the hierarchy. Both these factors lead to women having lower incomes.

With regard to the private sector, there is much less space for the Government's regulatory intervention in the sense of ensuring equal rights for men and women. According to a 2008 study,[17] about 38.1 per cent of businesses interviewed believed that women encountered tougher conditions in the labour market than men. At the same time, 42.5 per cent believed that women are faced with discrimination in the labour market. Respondents admitted that they prefer to

[15] http://www.un.md/UNIFEM/government/CEDAW/CEDAW_Recomandari%20_2006_Rom.pdf.

[16] Comprehensive IADG/MDG report, Government of Moldova, 2010.

[17] "The situation of women in the labour market of the Republic of Moldova", ASEM, Chisinau, 2008.

employ men, so as to "prevent possible human resources fluctuations". As stated above, the normative base against any type of discrimination at the workplace, including sexual harassment, is in place. Yet the universal phenomenon for any country is valid for the Republic of Moldova — a small number of such cases are proved and disclosed by undertaking legal action. Other countries' experience shows that a few cases making it to the courts on a yearly basis will not eliminate the problem for decades. The vision of the Government of the Republic of Moldova in this sense is that paramount to eliminating this problem is educating the younger generations and shaping a new, more gender-sensitive mentality in society, offering equal rights to men and to women. Eliminating stereotypes regarding gender roles or traditional professions is a much slower process, however.

Women subject to domestic violence

The Government of the Republic of Moldova took note of and is thoroughly considering the concluding observations of 25 September 2009, presented by the United Nations Human Rights Committee regarding domestic violence, intervention measures by the judiciary, the limited number and capacity of shelters for victims of domestic violence, and the fact that domestic violence is deemed to warrant police intervention only in cases where it has resulted in serious injury. At the same time, similar observations were formulated by the United Nations women's rights Committee, which continues to be concerned about the prevalence of violence, including domestic violence, against women in the Republic of Moldova.

Given the private circumstances in which domestic violence occurs, the extent of the violence experienced in the country is very difficult to estimate. However, the little data that is available points to an alarming situation.[18] According to the Ministry of Internal Affairs, there were 47 cases of family-related murders from 2008 to 2009. Information on the situation in the Transnistrian region is even less available, and any available information comes from civil society in the region. According to a survey on the perception of domestic violence in the Transnistrian region which was carried out by the local NGO "Rezonans" with the support of UNIFEM Moldova, most victims of domestic violence are women (44.5 per cent) and children (45.3 per cent). One in four women in Transnistria suffers from domestic violence in the form of either physical abuse, economic or mental and emotional violence.[19]

The Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence was adopted in March 2007 and complies with EU norms. It sets out key notions with respect to domestic violence and its forms, establishing an institutional framework with detailed responsibilities for the relevant authorities; provides for the creation of assistance centres for victims of violence and an effective mechanism for solving cases of violence by filing complaints, requesting restraining and protection orders, and isolating abusers. Although the law took effect on 18 September 2008, three orders of this kind were issued by the Moldovan courts up until November 2009,

[18] Official statistics on cases of domestic violence are collected exclusively by the police, while the indicators used do not manage to fully reflect all forms of violence occurring in a family and are limited to registering premeditated murder cases within a family, serious bodily injuries, light bodily injuries, and the number of domestic troublemakers.

[19] Survey on the perception of domestic violence in Transnistria, NGO "Rezonans", 2009.

following awareness-raising and training activities carried out with the support of donors and civil society.[20]

Publicizing such cases is one of the best tools the Government has to encourage citizens who have domestic violence problems to contact law enforcement agencies. The law stipulates the creation of services to protect victims of domestic violence. Authorities provide support for the maintenance of two centres for victims, while other costs are financed by donors. NGOs administer most of the assistance to women affected by domestic violence; these activities rely heavily on the support of donors. These organizations provide psychological and legal counselling and medical assistance, but few can afford to offer shelter as well. Much more in the way of additional resources and efforts are needed in this direction, as there are few centres, which have limited human and material resources and are not spread across the country. The limited number of protection orders was also due to the missing enforcement procedure in the national civil and criminal procedures.

For this reason, the Ministry of Labour, Social Protection and Family has drafted legislation that will enable enforcement of protection orders by judges. This draft legislation includes a new definition of "domestic violence" in the Criminal Code as well as the criminalizing of "sexual harassment" and "marital rape". At the time of writing, the legislation had had its first hearing in the Parliament on 4 May 2010. The modifications should become law by the end of the year.

Women subject to human trafficking

In the first few years after 2000, the Republic of Moldova became one of the major sources of human trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, predominantly in girls and women, of whom 14 per cent were under 18. More than half were aged 19-24.[21] There are no reliable statistics on the phenomenon of human trafficking, since many victims are not identified in either the destination countries or Moldova due to changing trafficking patterns, stigma-related fears, low levels of self-esteem and a lack of confidence in law enforcement bodies.

An indicator used to measure the phenomenon of human trafficking in the Republic of Moldova is the number of persons assisted by IOM and the Assistance and Protection Centre for the Victims of Trafficking. From 2000-2008, the total number of assisted persons was 5,183, including 2,443 victims of trafficking and 1,016 children of victims of trafficking, 50 stranded migrants and 1,674 "at-risk" cases.[22] The main forms of exploitation were: sexual (85.5 per cent), labour (6.5 per cent) and begging (3.1 per cent). The main destination countries were: Turkey (31 per cent), the Russian Federation (22.8 per cent), the Republic of Moldova (20.2 per cent), the United Arab Emirates (5.7 per cent) and Cyprus (4.4 per cent). Although exploitation patterns differ from region to region, cases of sexual exploitation are common to all destination countries and are more often registered in Turkey, the United Arab Emirates, Balkan countries and the Republic of Moldova.

[20] Activities carried out as part of the project "Protection and Empowerment of Victims of Human Trafficking and Domestic Violence", implemented by UNFPA, UNDP, IOM and OSCE.

[21] *Trafficking As It Is — A Statistical Profile, 2005-2006 Update*, IOM Moldova, 2007.

[22] IOM Moldova, FAQ about Moldova, migration, trafficking.

According to data made available by IOM and La Strada International, at least 70 per cent of trafficked victims are from families defined as "poor" or "very poor"; 65 per cent cite unemployment as the main reason for fleeing abroad, and 70-95 per cent suffered from domestic violence prior to being trafficked.[23] Another problem is internal trafficking in the Republic of Moldova, in particular from the Transnistrian region. The helpline operated by the NGO "Interaction", with IOM support, received over 2,886 calls from 2006-2008.[24] Since 2004, IOM has facilitated the repatriation and rehabilitation of 236 victims and their children within Transnistria.

Landmark progress in fighting human trafficking was made with the adoption in 2005 of the Law on Preventing and Combating Human Trafficking.[25] The Criminal Code was harmonized with this Law to ascribe criminal responsibility for trafficking in human beings, trafficking in children, the illegal removal of children from the country and pimping.[26] The Code also upgrades safeguards for participants in criminal cases and hands out tougher prison sentences for human traffickers of up to life imprisonment. Since 2001, institutional efforts have been made, including the creation of a special anti-trafficking division within the Prosecutor General's Office and the establishment of the National Committee to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings. In 2003, the National Committee established four sub-working groups on prevention, protection, legislation, and child trafficking, each co-chaired by a deputy minister and an international organization, namely, IOM, OSCE or UNICEF.

Although a considerable part of the anti-trafficking activities carried out by the Republic of Moldova are implemented by international organizations and remain dependent on international donor funding, the Government has improved its efforts to protect victims and has provided direct financial assistance to help with victim protection and assistance. It has played a leading role, in partnership with IOM, in developing and implementing the National Referral System (NRS) aimed at assisting and protecting victims and potential victims of human trafficking. Since the NRS was launched in 2006 up until December 2009, the total number of beneficiaries amounted to 874, including 292 victims, and there were 582 cases of prevention.

Depending on financial possibilities, the Government is gradually assuming ownership of the process — a step in this regard was the institutionalization of the Assistance and Protection Centre in Chisinau (designed for the rehabilitation of *potential* victims of human trafficking), which was previously administered by the International Organization for Migration, beginning in August 2008, and is co-funded from the State budget.

The Moldovan Government has also continued the development of the NRS at the transnational level under the regulation on repatriation, approved in August 2008, through the negotiation of bilateral agreements with such destination countries as the Russian Federation, Italy, Ukraine, Cyprus and the United Arab Emirates in the field of protection, and assistance to victims and potential victims of

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[23] *Second Annual Report on Victims of Trafficking in South-Eastern Europe, Country Report, Republic of Moldova*, August 2006.

[24] IOM activities in Transnistria, http://www.iom.md/materials/brochures/15_iom_transnistria_region.pdf.

[25] Law on Preventing and Combating Trafficking in Persons, No. 241-XVI of 20 October 2005, MO 164-167 of 9 December 2005.

[26] Articles 165, 206, 207 and 220 of the Criminal Code.

trafficking in human beings. In 2009, 42 unaccompanied minors, 46 victims of trafficking and 9 stranded migrants were repatriated.

With the Law on Preventing and Combating Domestic Violence coming into effect in September 2008, the National Referral System was extended to include assistance for victims of domestic violence as well.[27]

The path forward

The commitment of the Republic of Moldova towards the IADGs and, particularly, the MDGs is reflected in the National Development Strategy 2008-2011. These will also be further integrated into the policy coordination and planning process in the next strategic document, after 2011. After having carried out an analysis of IADG status in the Republic of Moldova, namely the MDGs — work that is much more exhaustive than the present report, it was concluded that of 27 specific targets included in the eight MDGs, it is likely that Moldova will achieve 21. Though there are considerable challenges in the environmental and educational sectors, if additional policy and funding (not only in terms of official development assistance) interventions are applied properly, the outcome by 2015 could be much higher than anticipated at the moment. Strengthening the sustainability of the progress registered to date is also of major importance. For example, although the country has registered substantial progress in maternal health care, in order to perpetuate the performance of these indicators, keeping them low and constantly improving them, it is paramount to further improve the health sector, ensuring universal access to quality health care in urban as well as rural areas, constantly improving hospital infrastructure, equipment and human capital. This, obviously, is a continuous process.

What has been understood is that the advancement of MDGs will not be possible to the maximum extent without coordinated interventions in key areas much more far-reaching than the MDGs. These cross-cutting interventions are and have been accounted for in national strategic documents, and "Rethink Moldova" is also centred on them. The effect of carrying out structural changes reflects differently upon different MDGs. Work on each of the eight Goals will be propelled forward by the implementation of certain structural changes and adjustments, which have the simple overall goal of ensuring the proper functioning of the State and quality of life for its population:

1. Universal access to quality health care;

2. Universal quality education and the development of human capital;

3. Infrastructure development will have a positive effect on health care, education, economic development and quality of life in general. Besides, the process is in itself beneficial, as it provides jobs, increasing population revenues, subsequently generating budget revenues;

4. Public administration reform — ensuring the emergence of a professional corps of civil servants at the local, regional and central levels, promoted based on merit and remunerated with competitive salaries;

[27] By the end of 2008, the NRS was extended to 16 districts, two municipalities and one town.

5. Independence of justice and the rule of law is indispensable to a well-functioning State where individuals, groups, as well as private businesses (foreign or local) are protected. The issues of human trafficking and domestic violence, as well as ensuring equal chances for everyone, are the tip of the iceberg when speaking of positive outcomes resulting from a strong and free State;

6. Solving the Transnistrian problem — the goal of ensuring equal chances for every citizen of the Republic of Moldova is impossible to accomplish without solving the problem with the separatist territory. In a situation where the central Government does not have control over a part of the country's territory, where the policies developed simply do not apply, part of its citizens will be underprivileged;

7. Strengthening partnership and dialogue with civil society and development partners: as mentioned repeatedly in the present report, dialogue and close cooperation with civil society has allowed their involvement in fields where the central Government has less reach — at the community level, educating and counselling those in need — a process of which the Government is gradually assuming ownership. Official development assistance has proved to be indispensable for advancing development and combating poverty.

The Government, with the support of development partners and civil society, has adopted and implemented a number of policies aimed at achieving the MDGs, particularly targeting social assistance to the most vulnerable groups and integrating gender-related issues into country development strategies. Committing itself to the MDGs, the Republic of Moldova is midway between the commencement of its offensive against the millennium problems and the successful completion of this challenge. While there has been some progress in MDG implementation since their approval, the trend has reversed in the last three years — a regional and even global phenomenon. Adverse changes took place in relation to the trends of the MDG indicators in 2008. Poverty as well as maternal and child mortality increased, while sanitary infrastructure and education stagnated. The economic difficulties faced over the period 2007-2009, particularly in the latter year, have set back progress significantly.

Among the main challenges that the Government may face is the ongoing economic crisis that continues to force authorities to adopt unpopular policies and practices, such as freezing wage increases, limiting pension indexation and cutting budget expenditure for service provision. The support of donors in financing structural reforms and providing direct support for the budget will be crucial in the medium term, yet investing in growth-generating objectives is essential for ensuring sustainability.

The perpetuation of the political crisis is another impediment to ensuring sequenced actions and may affect the achievement of the MDGs.

Finally, existing statistical shortcomings (as in the case of education) do not allow for proper monitoring, making frequent revision of MDG targets necessary.

Gender equality has in the recent decade been one of the preoccupations of the Government of Moldova and has been addressed through the signing of a number of international documents, the ratification of treaties and a formal commitment to

achieving the MDGs. Therefore, in order to empower women in both political and economic activities, it is necessary first to increase public awareness and raise the level of gender culture so as to encourage both the involvement of women in the political sphere and that of men in raising and educating children. Second, it is necessary to apply measures aimed at increasing the representation of women in decision-making bodies, at both the local and central levels, including through the revision of the Electoral Code. In order to avoid remuneration inequalities, there is a need to establish mechanisms for the systematic monitoring of the manner in which equal remuneration principles are put into practice in the public and private sectors, and to publish the results of this process. Finally, it is important to ensure the application of regulatory norms to prohibit explicit discrimination against women in the labour market and provide mechanisms for monitoring, reporting and punishing such practices, as well as to adopt normative and regulatory acts which would prevent, prohibit and punish moral and sexual harassment in the workplace and in educational institutions.

The efforts made by the authorities to combat violence against women in its various forms and human trafficking are considerable, especially in relation to the development of legal instruments and policies. However, despite this progress, the discrepancy between the legal framework and the reality at the community level is great. To make further headway in this area, it is important to recognize the relationship between the status of women in society and the diverse forms of violence against them, and to fundamentally change the public attitude that violence against women is a "private" matter by initiating awareness-raising campaigns. Also needed is specific training on domestic violence issues for law enforcement officers, prosecutors, judges and various categories of specialists from the health-care system and social assistance. The Government should further promote and support partnerships with civil society to strengthen the infrastructure of services for assistance and protection to victims of violence and human trafficking.

Annex A. Attainability of MDG targets for 2010 and 2015

Assessed target	*Attainability by 2010*	*Attainability by 2015*
Goal 1: Reduce extreme poverty and hunger		
Target 1. Reduce the proportion of people whose consumption is under $4.3 a day/person (in PPP terms) from 34.5% in 2006 down to 29% in 2010 and 23% in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Reduce the proportion of people under the absolute poverty line from 30.2% in 2006 down to 25% in 2010 and 20% in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 3. Reduce the proportion of people under the extreme poverty line from 4.5% in 2006 down to 4% in 2010 and 3.5% in 2015	Likely	Likely
Goal 2. Ensure access to general compulsory education		
Target 1. Ensure opportunities for all children to attend general compulsory education. Increase the gross enrolment rate for general secondary education from 94.1% in 2002 up to 95% in 2010 and 98% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Target 2. Maintain literacy rate for the 15- to 24-year-old population at 99.5%	Likely	Likely
Target 3. Increase the enrolment rate for preschool programmes for 3- to 6-year-old children from 41.3% in 2002 up to 75% in 2010 and 78% in 2015, and for 6- to 7-year-old children from 66.5% in 2002 up to 95% in 2010 and 98% in 2015, as well as reduce by less than 5% the discrepancies between rural and urban areas, between disadvantaged and middle-income groups	Unlikely	Unlikely
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women		
Target 1. Increase women's representation in decision-making positions. Increase representation of women at the decision-making level (from 26.5% in local councils in 2007 to 40% in 2015, from 13.2% in rayon councils in 2007 to 25% in 2015, from 18% women mayors in 2007 to 25% in 2015 and from 22% women MPs in 2005 to 30% in 2015)	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Reduce gender inequality in employment: reduce disparity between women's and men's salaries by at least 10% by 2015 (the average monthly salary of women represented 68.1% of the average salary of men in 2006)	Unlikely	Likely

Assessed target	*Attainability by 2010*	*Attainability by 2015*
	Goal 4. Reduce child mortality	
Target 1. Reduce infant mortality from 18.5 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 down to 16.3 in 2010 and 13.2 in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 2. Reduce the under-5 mortality rate from 20.7 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 down to 18.6 in 2010 and 15.3 in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 3. Maintain the share of measles vaccination of children under 2 years at no lower than 96% in 2010 and 2015	Unlikely	Likely
	Goal 5. Improve maternal health	
Target 1. Reduce the maternal mortality rate from 16 (per 1,000 live births) in 2006 to 15.5 in 2010 and 13.3 in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Maintain the number of births assisted by qualified medical staff during 2010 and 2015 at 99%	Likely	Likely
	Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases	
Target 1. Stabilize the spread of HIV/AIDS infection by 2015. Reduce HIV/AIDS incidence from 10 cases per 100,000 population in 2006 to 9.6 cases by 2010 and 8 cases by 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Target 2. Reduce HIV/AIDS incidence in the 15- to 24-year-old age group from 13.3 cases per 100,000 population in 2006 to 11.2 cases by 2010 and 11 cases by 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 3. Have halted by 2015 and begun to reduce tuberculosis. Reduce the rate of mortality associated with tuberculosis from 15.9 (per 100,000 population) in 2002 down to 15.0 in 2010 and 10.0 in 2015	Likely	Likely
	Goal 7. Ensure a sustainable environment	
Target 1. Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reduce degradation of natural resources. Increase forested area from 10.3% in 2002 to 12.1% in 2010 and 13.2% in 2015	Unlikely	Likely
Target 2. Increase the share of protected areas to preserve biological diversity from 1.96% in 2002 to 4.65% in 2010 and 4.65% in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 3. Increase the share of people with permanent access to safe water sources from 38.5% in 2002 up to 59% in 2010 and 65% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely

Assessed target	*Attainability by 2010*	*Attainability by 2015*
Target 4. Halve the number of people without access to improved sewage and sanitation systems. Increase the share of people with permanent access to safe water sources from 31.3% in 2002 up to 50.3% in 2010 and 65% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Target 5. Increase the percentage of population with access to sanitation systems from 41.7% in 2002 to 51.3% in 2010 and 71.8% in 2015	Unlikely	Unlikely
Goal 8. Create a global partnership for development		
Target 1. Further develop a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory trade and financial system based on rules through promoting exports and attracting investments	Likely	Likely
Target 2. Deal with issues associated with Moldova's landlocked status by upgrading transportation and customs infrastructure	Unlikely	Likely
Target 3. Monitor external debt issue	Likely	Likely
Target 4. Develop and implement youth strategies. Reduce unemployment among youths to 15% in 2010 and 10% in 2015	Likely	Likely
Target 5. Ensure access of population to major drugs	Likely	Likely
Target 6. Build an information society. Double the number of fixed and mobile telephone subscribers from 2006 to 2015 and increase the number of personal computers and Internet subscribers at a minimum annual rate of 15%	Likely	Likely

Annex B. MDG monitoring indicators

Goals/Targets	*Indicator name*	*Source*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Goal 1. Reduce extreme poverty and hunger											
	Share of population living below the threshold of $4.3 as per PPP (consumer spending per person), %	MEc							34.5	29.8	30.4
	Share of population living below the threshold of $2.15 as per PPP (spending per adult equivalent), %	MEc	45.0	32.3	21.0	11.5	11.4	14.4	13.2		
	Share of population living on incomes under $2.15 per person per day by PPP, %	MEc	64.5	52.4	39.8	28.9	27.8	27.6	13.2		
	Share of population living below national absolute poverty line (absolute poverty rate), %	NBS	67.8	54.6	40.4	29.0	26.5	29.1	30.2	25.8	26.4
	Poverty gap index, %	NBS	27.0	19.3	12.4	7.3	6.8	8.0	7.9	5.9	6.4
	Share of poorest quintile in national consumption, %	NBS, MEc	6.8	6.5	6.8	7.5	7.2	6.7	8.2	8.1	8.9
	Incidence of malnutrition in children under 5 years, %	MH, NBS	20.9	19.8	18.6	19.0	17.1	16.7	14.3	12.8	11.0
	Share of population living below the level of minimum caloric intake (2,282 kcal/per day) (extreme poverty rate), %	NBS	52.2	38.0	26.2	15.0	14.7	16.1	4.5	2.8	3.2
Goal 2. Ensure access to general compulsory education (grades I-IX)											
Ensure opportunities for all children to attend general compulsory education	Gross enrolment rate into compulsory education system, %	NBS	93.8	94.4	95.1	95.1	94.6	94.4	92.0	91.6	90.9
	Gross enrolment rate in preschool education, children aged 3-6 years, %	NBS	44.1	47.6	57.0	61.1	66.1	70.7	70.1	72.6	74.4
	Gross enrolment rate in preschool education, children aged 6-7 years, %	NBS	36.8	37.6	37.1	35.5	39.0	41.1	40.8	40.5	41.8
	Share of children enrolled in first grade after completing preschool education, %	MEd			66.5	78.8	69.1	75.6	81.7		
Maintain literacy rate for the 15- to 24-year-old population	Literacy rate, %	NBS, MEd					99.9	99.5	99.6	99.6	99.6

Goals/Targets	*Indicator name*	*Source*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Goal 3. Promote gender equality and empower women											
Increase women's representation in decision-making positions	Share of MP seats held by women, %	NBS	7.9	12.9	15.8	17.5	22.0	22.0	21.8	21.8	21.8
	Share of seats in local councils held by women, %	CEC								26.5	28.7
	Share of seats in district councils held by women, %									13.2	16.9
	Share of mayoral seats held by women, %									18.0	17.4
Reduce gender inequality in employment	Share of female employees by type of economic activity, %	NBS									
	Agriculture, hunting industry, fish breeding		49.6	50.2	50.4	49.7	51.5	51.7	47.5	46.0	45.5
	Industry		43.1	43.3	44.7	46.1	45.5	45.8	44.3	44.4	45.8
	Construction		15.2	14.5	14.7	13.5	11.4	12.0	9.5	9.4	11.5
	Wholesale and retail trade; hospitality industry		58.0	58.4	58.6	59.3	60.7	59.6	57.6	59.2	58.3
	Transportation and communications		24.8	24.1	25.3	22.2	22.5	26.2	27.9	28.7	25.0
	Public administration; education; health care; social assistance		67.2	66.3	66.9	67.7	67.7	68.3	67.7	70.3	69.7
	Other activities		52.6	53.6	55.1	55.3	56.0	53.1	51.2	53.9	55.2
	Share of women's average salary compared to men's average salary, %	NBS	...	...	...	71.9	71.3	72.6	68.1	72.6	73.3
Goal 4. Reduce child mortality											
	Under-5 mortality rate, cases per 1,000 children born alive	MH, NBS	23.2	20.4	18.2	17.8	15.3	15.6	14.0	14.0	14.4
	Infant mortality rate, cases per 1,000 children born alive	MH, NBS	18.3	16.3	14.7	14.4	12.2	12.4	11.8	11.3	12.2
	Share of children aged under 2 years vaccinated against measles*, %	MH, NBS	89.1	94.1	94.3	95.7	96.3	96.9	96.9	94.7	94.4
Goal 5. Improve maternal health											
	Maternal mortality rate, cases per 100,000 births	NBS, MH	27.1	43.9	28.0	21.9	23.5	18.6	16.0	15.8	38.4
	Rate of assisted births, %	MH	99.3	99.2	99.1	99.4	99.4	99.5	99.6	99.5	99.5

Goals Targets	*Indicator name*	*Source*	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Goal 6. Combat HIV/AIDS, tuberculosis and other diseases											
Stabilize the spread of HIV/AIDS infection by 2015	HIV/AIDS incidence rate*, cases per 100,000 population	MH, NBS	4.0	5.5	4.7	6.2	8.4	12.5	14.7	17.4	19.4
	HIV/AIDS incidence rate among age group 15-24 years*, cases per 100,000 population	NBS, MH	10.4	10.5	9.0	9.8	13.4	20.1	18.8	21.2	16.1
Have halted by 2015 and begun to reduce tuberculosis	Rate of mortality associated with tuberculosis*, 100,000 population	MH	17.2	15.5	17.3	16.9	17.1	19.1	19.3	20.2	17.1
Goal 7. Ensure a sustainable environment											
Integrate principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes and reduce degradation of natural resources	Share of forested areas, %	Moldsilva Agency	10.5	10.5	10.3	10.5	10.6	10.7	10.7	10.7	10.9
	Share of protected areas to preserve biological diversity, %	MEn	—	—	1.96	1.96	1.96	1.96	4.65	4.76	4.76
	GDP per one kg of domestically consumed conventional fuel, MDL, current prices	NBS, MEn	6.0	7.7	8.3	9.8	10.4	11.6	13.8	17.3	20.1
	CO_2 emissions from stationary and mobile source, tons per capita	MEn, NBS	2.3	2.5	2.6	2.7	2.9	2.9	3.0	3.0	...
	CFC emissions, tons per capita	MEn	0.000 0038	0.000 0060	0.000 0082	0.000 0052	0.000 0055	0.000 0040	0.000 0033	0.000 0026	0.000 0000
	Share of people with access to improved water sources, %	NSPCPM, NBS	37.8	38.1	38.5	39.7	44.5	45.0	46.0	47.0	53.0
Halve the number of people without access to improved sewerage services	Share of people with access to improved sanitation, %	MCRD	41.1	40.0	41.7	41.5	43.6	44.0	45.0	45.4	45.9
	Share of people with access to improved sewerage, %	NBS	31.8	32.4	31.3	31.7	32.8	43.8	43.3	43.9	45.7

Goals/Targets	Indicator name	Source	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004	2005	2006	2007	2008
Goal 8. Create a global partnership for development											
Further develop a transparent, predictable and non-discriminatory trade and financial system based on rules through promoting exports and attracting investments	Share of exports, % of GDP	NBS, MEc	36.6	38.2	38.7	39.9	37.9	36.5	30.8	30.5	26.3
	Share of international commercial transactions carried out under free trade agreements, %	MEc, NBS							53.6	37.6	36.8
	Trade gap in relation with, % of GDP	NBM	-23.7	-22.1	-23.7	-30.9	-30.1	-40.2	-48.2	-53.3	-54.7
	Loans offered by commercial banks, % of GDP	NBM	14.3	16.3	18.6	21.9	23.1	26.5	30.8	39.1	40.0
	Insurance premiums, % of GDP	NCFM	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.3	1.3	1.3
	Turnover of foreign-owned and mixed companies, %	NBS, MEc			25.8	25.4	25.1	26.5	28.2	27.9	27.7
	Net FDI, % of GDP	NBS, MEc	9.9	7.0	5.2	3.7	5.8	6.4	7.4	11.2	11.8
Deal with issues associated with Moldova's landlocked status by upgrading transportation and customs infrastructure	Traffic capacity of national roads, 10,000 vehicles per day	MTRI	2.1	2.3	2.6	3.2	3.0	3.8	4.4	4.6	4.8
	Share of investment in transportation sector, % of public investment	NBS, MEc	13.7	12.0	16.0	15.7	12.3	8.2	19.5	6.6	17.6
	Share of investment in air and naval transportation, % investment in transportation	NBS, MEc	76.3	63.1	19.2	11.9	19.7	7.1	28.4	13.8	23.7
Monitoring public external debt	External public debt, % of GDP	MF	60.4	48.1	44.4	36.0	25.7	22.4	20.7	16.2	12.9
	External debt, % of GDP		133.1	115.3	111.4	92.4	73.2	70.8	72.9	70.4	67.5
	Settlement of external public debt, % of tax revenues to State budget	MF	30.4	48.2	27.7	18.1	24.0	9.5	10.0	6.0	4.5
Develop and implement youth strategies	Unemployment rate in age group 15-24 years, %	NBS, NALFE	15.8	16.3	15.2	18.1	19.7	18.7	17.1	14.4	11.2
Build an information society	Fixed telephony penetration per 100 population	NBS	16.6	18.1	19.9	21.9	25.2	27.4	29.7	30.1	31.2
	Mobile telephony penetration per 100 population	NARIT	3.1	6.6	10.0	13.9	23.2	32.3	37.8	52.6	67.9
	Personal computers per 100 population		1.3	1.5	1.8	2.6	3.4	10.3	12.4	15.6	24.8
	Internet users per 100 population	NARIT	1.2	2.0	3.3	8.0	12.0	16.2	21.2	23.4	37.0

* Including data from the eastern side of the Nistru River.

Annex C. Selected indicators, including disaggregated by gender

Table 1
Main macroeconomic indicators

Indicators	*2000*	*2001*	*2002*	*2003*	*2004*	*2005*	*2006*	*2007*	*2008*
Real growth of GDP, %	2.1	6.1	7.8	6.6	7.4	7.5	4.8	3.0	7.2
GDP per capita, USD	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7	353.7
Consumer Price Index, annual average, %	31.2	9.6	5.3	11.6	12.4	11.9	12.7	12.3	7.3
Budget deficit, as a share of GDP, %	-2.5	0.6	-1.8	1.0	0.5	1.6	-0.3	-0.2	-1.0
Foreign direct investment, millions of USD	127.5	103.4	84.5	73.7	151.0	190.7	251.1	493.4	712.8
Migrant remittances, millions of USD	152.9	212.0	254.1	317.3	422.4	683.2	854.5	1 218.2	1 660.1

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, National Bank of Moldova.

Table 2
Gender-disaggregated poverty rates among the most vulnerable categories, 2008, %

	Absolute poverty rate		*Extreme poverty rate*		*Absolute poverty rate (total)*	*Extreme poverty rate (total)*
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*		
Poverty rate (total)	27.1	25.8	3.4	3.0	26.4	3.2
Poverty rate among the elderly, total	353	36.7	3.2	3.3	36.1	3.3
Including by age group:						
60-69	28.1	28.0	2.6	2.8	28.0	2.7
70-75	42.4	41.1	2.7	3.1	41.6	2.9
More than 75	43.0	49.8	5.1	4.8	47.3	4.9
Poverty rate among children, total	27.3	26.7	3.2	4.0	27.0	3.6
Including by age group:						
Under 5	29.7	27.8	2.3	6.0	28.8	4.1
5-9	27.6	24.7	2.8	3.8	26.2	3.3
10-14	25.5	24.3	3.5	2.3	25.0	2.9
15-18	27.2	30.0	3.9	4.5	28.5	4.2
Farmers	37.6	36.2	6.8	6.3	36.9	6.5
Employed in agriculture	44.6	41.1	8.0	8.5	42.8	8.3
Pensioners	37.6	37.0	3.7	3.3	37.3	3.5
Households with 3 or more children under 18	41.9	42.8	7.3	8.3	42.3	7.8
Households with 3 or more children under 16	42.1	41.9	6.4	7.9	42.0	7.2

	Absolute poverty rate		*Extreme poverty rate*		*Absolute poverty rate (total)*	*Extreme poverty rate (total)*
	Men	*Women*	*Men*	*Women*		
Households headed by persons with basic/primary education	43.5	42.0	6.2	5.2	42.6	5.6
Households headed by persons without primary education and illiterate	67.2	51.4	8.5	5.6	55.9	6.4
One-person households	26.1	30.1	5.3	2.1	29.0	2.9
Households living on unemployment benefits	63.2	20.5	0.0	0.0	34.9	0.0

Source: National Bureau of Statistics, Ministry of Economy estimates.

Table 3
Selected gender-disaggregated indicators, 2008

Indicators	*Total*	*Women*	*Men*
Number of women and men at the end of the year, 1,000 people	3 567.5	1 852.6	1 714.9
Live births	39 018	18 920	20 098
Economically active population, 1,000 people	1 302.8	644.0	658.8
Employed population, 1,000 people	1 251.0	622.2	628.8
Unemployed, 1,000 people	51.7	21.7	30.0
Economically inactive population, 1,000 people	1 639.0	906.5	732.5
Total pensioners	**621.4**	**399.7**	**221.7**
Total convicted	**7 367**	**982**	**6 385**

Source: National Bureau of Statistics.